

Message Text

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42

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SUBJ: HERBERT J. SPIRO BECOMES FIFTH AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO THE
UNITED REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

YAOUNDE SEPT 2 -- HERBERT J. SPIRO BECAME THE FIFTH AMERICAN
AMBASSADOR TO CAMEROON YESTERDAY UPON PRESENTATION OF HIS CRE-
DENTIALS TO THE CAMEROONIAN HEAD OF STATE, HIS EXCELLENCY EL
HADJ AHMADOU AHIDJO. DURING THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY AT THE
PRESIDENCY IN YAOUNDE, AFTER NOTING THAT AMERICA IS ENTERING
HER 200TH AND CAMEROON HER 15TH YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE THE NEW
AMBASSADOR SAID THE FOLLOWING: "SOME NATIONS ARE BLESSED AT BIRTH
WITH A WISE GENERATION OF LEADERS, WHO HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF
THEMSELVES AND THEIR OWN MOMENT IN HISTORY, AN UNDERSTANDING
BASED UPON ACCEPTANCE OF THE GOOD AND REJECTION OF THE BAD IN
THEIR PAST, AND AT THE SAME TIME DIRECTED TOWARD REALIZATION OF
THE PEOPLE'S BOLDEST ASPIRATIONS FOR THE FUTURE. AMERICA WAS SO
BLESSED IN 1776. I BELIEVE THAT CAMEROONIANS OF THIS GENERATION
ARE SIMILARLY BLESSED.

THE AMERICAN FOUNDING FATHERS WERE THE PIONEERS OF THE AGE OF
INDEPENDENCE. THEY STOOD AT ONE OF THOSE RARE AXIAL POINTS IN
HISTORY WHEN A CONSCIOUS DECISION CAN BE MADE BY MEN OF PURPOSE
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TO BRING DOWN THE CURTAIN ON ONE EPOCH AND TO SET THE SCENE FOR

THE NEXT. IT IS TRUE THAT THE AGE OF DEPENDENCE COEXISTED WITH THE AGE OF INDEPENDENCE FOR ANOTHER TWO HUNDRED YEARS. IT IS TRUE ALSO THAT THE AUTHORS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IN 1776 ALREADY ANTICIPATED THE EMERGENCE OVER THE HISTORICAL HORIZON OF WHAT PRESIDENT FORD HAS CALLED THE AGE OF INTERDEPENDENCE WHEN THEY SPOKE OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF A "DECENT RESPECT TO THE OPINIONS OF MANKIND."

PRESIDENT AHIDJO IN HIS RESPONSE ALSO EMBRACED THE PRINCIPLE OF INTERDEPENDENCE AND EXPRESSED THE WILLINGNESS OF HIS GOVERNMENT TO WORK IN CONCERT WITH THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TOWARDS A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER FOUNDED UPON JUSTICE AND EQUITY AND TOWARDS A NEW INTERNATIONAL STRUCTURE OF PEACE FOUNDED UPON SECURITY AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS. THE CAMEROONIAN PRESIDENT THANKED THE UNITED STATES FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE REALIZATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WHICH HAD HELPED TO TRANSLATE THE CAMEROONIAN DESIRE FOR INDEPENDENCE INTO REALITY.

AMBASSADOR SPIRO HAS BEEN CONCERNED WITH AFRICAN AFFAIRS FOR MANY YEARS, HAVING SERVED WITH THE POLICY PLANNING STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE SINCE 1970. HE IS THE AUTHOR OF SEVERAL BOOKS ON AFRICA INCLUDING PATTERNS OF AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT, POLITICS IN AFRICA AND AFRICA, THE PRIMACY OF POLITICS. ITEM.
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